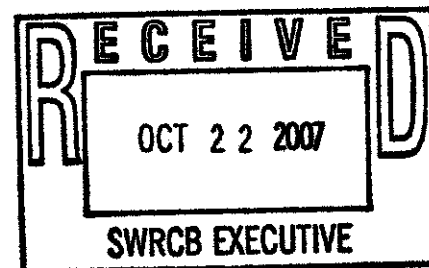


12/4/07 Bd. Mtg.
Water Recycling Policy
Deadline: 10/26/07 by Noon

October 18, 2007

Moulton Niguel Water
WATER QUALITY AND SERVICE ARE #1

Ms. Jeanie Townsend
Acting Clerk of the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
PO Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812-0200



Regarding: **Comment Letter – Proposed Recycled Water Policy**

Dear Ms. Townsend:

The Moulton Niguel Water District (MNWD) would like to thank the Board for the opportunity to provide written comments on the proposed Water Recycling Policy. MNWD has been producing and purveying recycled water since 1964, when it started serving recycled water to an eighteen-hole golf course. MNWD now provides about 8,000 acre-feet per year of recycled water to 1,196 users comprising 3,746 acres of irrigated landscaping. This amounts to about 19 percent of MNWD's water demands.

We agree with the need to protect the beneficial users of groundwater basins from salt and nutrient related degradation. MNWD's service area has very little underlying potable water quality groundwater. The groundwater is naturally salty due to its geological conditions and not from human activities. This area is known for high mineral content groundwater and in some locations the groundwater Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) exceeds 10,000 mg/L, far higher than the average TDS level of about 800 mg/L of MNWD's recycled water.

Past evaluations and/or studies have determined that neither self-regenerative water softeners nor industrial sources significantly impact the salt content in our recycled water. A salt management plan based on restricting self-regenerative water softeners and industrial sources of salt, as suggested in the draft Policy, would be an unnecessary financial burden for the recycled water users in our service area. It is our opinion that this type of measure would not produce any significant reduction in the salt levels in our recycled water.

The Board's Staff Report discusses six possible options for regulating salt build up in the state's waters and recommends using the 300 mg/l incremental increase option without identifying the current methodology. MNWD operates under the San Diego Region Basin Plan, which was developed based on models that take into account the quality and quantity of recycled water applied, the hydrologic sub basin, beneficial uses, underlying groundwater quality, precipitation, evapotranspiration, and other factors. If the basin plan models are not effective at protecting water quality it is understandable that the Board would consider a more effective approach. However, where basin plan models have proven to be effective in protecting the water quality

a public agency at:
27500 La Paz Road, Laguna Niguel, CA 92677-3489
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949/831-2500

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objectives, the models should remain in place and the incremental increase limit should serve only as guidance.

Based on our experience we would argue that the allowable incremental increase should be 500 mg/l for TDS. For the past five years we have experienced incremental increases ranging from 176 mg/l to 861 mg/l with a five-year average of 749 mg/l, 598 mg/l, and 314 mg/l from our three water-recycling plants.

As the state continues to experience drought conditions, we will need to have our customers conserve potable water. Our customers will respond by cutting back not only on their irrigation usage, but also on low salt inducing indoor usage. This will naturally increase the TDS levels in the sewage we receive for water recycling purposes. The low 300 mg/l incremental level may cause water-recycling purveyors to reduce their water recycling production during this time when it is needed most.

The use of Nutrient Management Plans would be impractical since we have over a thousand individual recycled water use sites. Requiring each use site to estimate nutrient needs and track the amount of nitrogen applied to their sites would be an unnecessary cost burden having little or no impact on water quality. Again, there is little potable-water quality groundwater supply in our service area due to the high salinity in the basin. Therefore, the impact of recycled water application in the region has little consequence from a water quality perspective.

We understand and agree with the need for regulatory consistency with respect to recycled water regulations and the assurance that the beneficial uses of the waters of the state will be protected; however, we do not believe the Policy as drafted is the soundest approach towards this effort. We believe a single standardized approach that does not take local conditions into consideration is a misstep in terms of scientific and technically sound regulation.

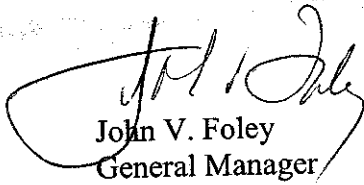
While we cannot support the Policy as currently drafted, we do stand ready to support and work with the state on a Water Recycling Policy. We will support a Policy that is more representative of regional conditions and effective in protecting the beneficial uses of the local water basins and the waters of the state.

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Larry Dees, Director of Operations, at (949) 425-3537.

Sincerely,

MOULTON NIGUEL WATER DISTRICT



John V. Foley
General Manager

JVF:fb